

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097304

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FOR AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES FROM TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR TODMAN RETURNED FROM HAVANA AFTER
A SECOND ROUND OF TALKS ON FISHERIES AND MARITIME
BOUNDARIES. NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PANAMANIAN OVER
THE CANAL ARE EXPECTED TO RESUME IN WASHINGTON MAY 9.
HEARINGS ON NICARAGUA SEEMED TO GO AGAINST THAT GOVERN-
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MENT. THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 14-24
MAY BE SHIFTED TO WASHINGTON, VICE GRENADA. THE WORKING
LEVEL DELEGATION IS IN GUATEMALA FOR ECLA BIENNIAL
COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND MELISSA
WELLS WILL GO TO GUATEMALA NEXT WEEK. CAR AND ECP
ARE WORKING ON A PAPER ON THE POTENTIAL OF JAMAICA
FOR EXPANDING ITS EXPORTS, WHICH IS FOR USE BY THE

ECONOMIC TEAM THAT WILL BE GOING THERE NEXT WEEK. ARA/MGT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN AN FSL WORKING GROUP AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT EVALUATION SYSTEM. PETER TARNOFF SPOKE TO THE ARA STAFF MEETING APRIL 20. END SUMMARY.

1. CUBA: ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN HEADED A SMALL DELEGATION TO HAVANA APRIL 24-27 TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS BEGUN IN NEW YORK IN LATE MARCH. THE SECOND

ROUND RESULTED IN THE SIGNATURE OF A GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENT (GIFA) AND AN AGREEMENT ON A PRELIMINARY MARITIME BOUNDARY. DURING THE VISIT TODMAN HAD A CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA WHICH COVERED A BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CUBA. THE VISIT REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD IMPROVING U.S.-CUBAN RELATIONS, A PROCESS WHICH BOTH SIDES AGREE MUST BE ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND RECIPROCITY. THE PROCESS WILL PROBABLY BE GRADUAL, BUT THE VISIT GOT IT OFF TO A GOOD START. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW SEPTEL.

2. PANAMA: PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE AGREED TO COMMENCE THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON MAY 9. THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE NEGOTIATORS WILL BE TO MOVE CLOSER TO CONCEPTUAL AGREEMENT ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT TREATY DRAFTING WILL BEGIN AT THIS SESSION.

3. CONGRESSIONAL: THE FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUB-CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HELD THEIR SECOND SESSION APRIL 21 ON U.S. ASSISTANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN NICARAGUA. NO U.S. GOVERNMENT WITNESSES TESTIFIED. SIX WITNESSES TESTIFIED FOR THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT, TWO AGAINST. CONGRESSMEN KOCH, LONG AND YOUNG WERE PRESENT. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS WAS THAT HEARINGS WENT AGAINST THE GON. THERE IS A SERIOUS POSSIBILITY THAT THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL VOTE AGAINST FY 78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA AND PERHAPS BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR FY 78. WE HAVE BEEN DOING SOME QUIET LOBBYING WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE IN HOPES OF SECURITY FUNDS BEING APPROPRIATED, THEREBY LEAVING US SOME FLEXIBILITY ON IMPLEMENTING THEM, DEPENDING ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AT THAT TIME.

4. OAS, ECLA CONFERENCES: THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY SHIFT TO WASHINGTON INSTEAD OF GRENADA. ALTHOUGH NO ONE HAS BEEN WILLING TO GET OUT IN FRONT

OF THE ISSUE, THERE IS A GROWING REALIZATION THAT THE FACILITIES AT GRENADA ARE SIMPLY INADEQUATE. A FOUR-HOUR MEETING TO DECIDE THE ISSUE ON APRIL 25 WAS INCONCLUSIVE, AND ANOTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK. THE WORKING LEVEL DELEGATION STARTED PREPARING FOR THE ECLA BIENNIAL IN GUATEMALA ON APRIL 25. AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND MELISSA WELLS WILL GO NEXT WEEK. ARA HAS PREPARED ONE-PAGE BRIEFING PAPERS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHOM HE MAY

HOLD BILATERALS. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN WORKING WITH USUN ON YOUNG'S SPEECH.

6. USG ECONOMIC TEAM TO JAMAICA: DONOR LION IS HEADING A HIGH-LEVEL TEAM VISITING JAMAICA MAY 2-6 TO EXAMINE WITH THE GOJ WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO ADDRESS THEIR ECONOMIC CRISIS. THE U.S. GROUP FROM AID, CONFIDENTIAL

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STATE, AND TREASURY WILL WORK WITH A CORRESPONDING GROUP OF JAMAICAN OFFICIALS TO MORE CLEARLY DEFINE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND SET THE GROUND RULES FOR A SECOND GROUP WHICH WILL BE FORMED AT THE EXPERT LEVEL. THE SECOND JOINT U.S./JAMAICAN TEAM WILL CONVENE LATER IN MAY TO WORK OUT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS THAT MIGHT BE USED TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. WE HOPE THAT THE ULTIMATE RESULT WILL BE THE FORMATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL DONOR CONSORTIUM THAT WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY EXTERNAL CAPITAL JAMAICA NEEDS. WE PLAN TO INVOLVE OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PERHAPS IN THE SECOND TEAM.

7. ADMINISTRATION: ARA/MGT IS PARTICIPATING IN A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A WORLDWIDE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LOCALS, AND HOPES TO GET A MEMO OFF TO THE DG WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THIS PROGRAM. MGT IS ALSO WORKING ON A QUESTIONNAIRE TO FIND OUT HOW FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC EMPLOYEES VIEW THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM.

8. TARNOFF AT ARA STAFF MEETING: PETER TARNOFF, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT, SPOKE TO THE ARA STAFF MEETING APRIL 20. TARNOFF DISCUSSED THE SECRETARY'S WORKING STYLE, HIS PREFERRED RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE BUREAU, AND MOVEMENT OF WRITTEN MATERIALS TO THE SEVENTH FLOOR. CHRISTOPHER

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